

Elementary and Secondary Education

The public schools are where we deliver on the promise of equality and opportunity. I know that because I have lived it. Every opportunity I have had, including now the opportunity to serve in the United States Congress, I owe to the education available to me in North Carolina's public schools. I am determined to make those opportunities available to every child in every generation. The first speech I gave on the floor of the House of Representatives was on the commitment our nation should make to public education. I believe that federal funding levels for public education are inadequate, which is why I have consistently voted in favor of increasing education funding.

The education our children receive through headstart, elementary and secondary education lay the ground work for our country's future development. We must ensure that our students are graduating with the skills needed to be productive members of society. During reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind), we must maintain our commitment to closing the academic achievement gap and helping all children learn. However, the current law needs to be changed in order to move away from one-size-fits-all testing and all-or-nothing scoring of schools.

Higher Education

The health of our economy relies on a highly-skilled and well-educated workforce. College access is essential to remaining strong in the face of an increasingly competitive global economy. Over the past decade, American college students and their families have shouldered a heavy burden of debt to pay for higher college student loan rates in addition to tuition and fee increases. With college costs steadily rising across North Carolina and the country, student aid packages can mean all the difference when the time comes to advance your education. Pell Grants play an important role in student aid packages for many students in North Carolina and I will continue to support this vital program.